



Runge Conservation Nature Center

Habitat

Happenings

July and August 2005

I like things that are hidden. May-apple flowers dangle under the large palm-like leaves of the plant, a snail tucks inside its shell under damp leaves, and a shiny skink peers out from under a fallen log. They surprise, delight, and intrigue me. They urge me to look further and learn more.

Caves are definitely down under and hold hidden life unfamiliar to many of us. Some of the really cool things about the hidden life of caves are the words that are used to describe it. Fun sounding words like troglobite, troglophile, and troglaxene describe and organize this underground life. Try saying those words. These words originate from the Greek word *troglo-dyte* that means "one who creeps into holes" or "a cave dweller."

A troglobite is an animal that is restricted to life inside a cave. These animals would not survive for long outside of the cave or above ground. Animals such as the grotto salamander, blind cavefish, and cave crayfish are just a few of the animals that are considered troglobitic. They are white or pink in color and are blind. They live in the deepest, darkest part of the underground world of the cave.

Troglaphiles are animals that live in the cave, but are also found in areas outside of a cave. Most species of salamanders, except for the grotto

salamander are considered troglaphiles. They also hide under rocks and logs in cool, damp places in the woods. Sometimes fish and insects will move up a stream into a cave, and these animals would be called troglaphiles.

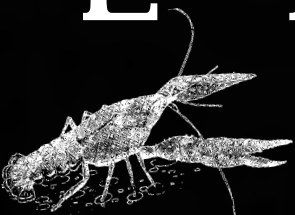
The final "troglo" word is troglaxene. This term is used to describe the animals that spend a lot of time down under, but also leave this underground world to feed. Bats, moths, pickerel frogs and bears are visitors to the cave and would be considered troglaxenes. Might we be a troglaxene?

With at least 5,700 recorded caves in Missouri, the hidden life of our underground world is vast. There is much to be found down under and much to learn about life underground. Discovering hidden things opens up new worlds and new ways of seeing and knowing.

Robin Grumm, Naturalist

Life Down Under

Underground that is!





Volunteer News

Below are the "Best of Show" and "First Place" winners from the 7th annual **Wildlifers' Quilt Show**. Carolyn Brunner and Nadine Marshall, thank you for all your years of hard work and dedication that you put into this program.



Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted with **Area Management Day** at the nature center. We could not have cleaned up and planted so much without you.



Runge Conservation Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. No admission fee. 573/526-5544. www.missouriconservation.org

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

Exhibits July & August

In Focus

This exhibit features the images from *Missouri Conservationist's* longtime nature photographer, Jim Rathert, and includes 36 of Jim's best photographs which can also be seen in his book *In Focus*. These photos are bound to speak to your heart and soul.

Runge Staff

Nature Center Manager

Kathy Cavender

Interpretive Programs

Supervisor

Kevin Lohraff

Naturalists

Robin Grumm

Trana Madsen

Alane Dubbert

Amber Edwards

Support Staff

Donna Wankum

Stacy Kemper

Peggy Adkisson

Maintenance Staff

Kent Fischer

Dale Morris

Clarence Hohman

Melvin Beck

Tim Giboney

Runge Nature Center welcomes new staff! We have some new folks on our team to help serve you, our visitors. Please say hello to Trana, Alane, Amber, and Tim when you see them around the nature center.

Nature Shop News July/August

Singing Insects of Missouri

Crickets, katydids, cicadas, and grasshoppers create the sounds of summer. This CD and poster can help you identify 20 common species of Missouri's "singing insects."

Discounted price: \$6.40 plus tax

Heritage card discount does not apply.

20% OFF



Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required to attend.

Archery Skills

Tuesday, July 12 — 6:30-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

It's a bow and arrow bonanza for beginners! Come sharpen your archery skills, shooting arrows at turkey and deer targets. Of course, we'll also have a thorough lesson in bow and arrow orientation and safety. Aim high and join us for a bow and arrow bonanza!

Ozark Down Under Adventure Field Trip

Saturday, August 13— 7:30AM-4:30PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Explore the winding passageways of Ozark Caverns with just a lantern to light your way. Discover the secrets of how caves are formed and search for signs of "under-world" animals. Back on the surface, you'll hike the Coakley Hollow trail and experience the Ozarks natural wonders of a free-flowing spring-fed stream, a sunning fence lizard on a glade, and a natural community called a fen. There are also two swinging bridges! This is an adventure you won't want to miss!



In order to go on the field trip, the Parental Permission Form in this issue must be signed by your parent or guardian and received at Runge Nature Center by 5:00PM, August 1, 2005. This trip is provided to Conservation Kids' Club members who have joined the club by July 12, 2005.

Hey, Parents!

*While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, July 12, 6:30PM**. There will not be a preschool program offered on August 13th. No reservations required.*

Conservation Kids' Club

Parental Permission Form

The Conservation Kids' Club is planning a field trip to **Ozark Caverns** near Camdenton, Missouri, on **August 13, 2005 from 7:30AM – 4:30PM**. Children must have joined Conservation Kids' Club by July 12, 2005 in order to attend this field trip.

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. We will be hiking approximately one hour in a cave and one hour on a trail:

- 1) closed footwear (no sandals); preferably with good tread
- 2) sweatshirt/jacket (cave is 56 degrees - might get chilly)
- 3) rainwear (rain or shine, we will go!)

The following is optional to put in a small backpack:

- 1) camera (take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints)
- 2) canteen (we will have some beverages, but August is HOT. Extra water is a good thing!)
- 3) binoculars (ooh, the things we will see!)
- 4) insect repellent

Lunch, drinks, and snacks will be provided.

We will meet at Runge Conservation Nature Center parking lot at 7:30AM for registration. We will leave at 8:00AM and expect to return by 4:30PM. Your child must ride the bus to and from the field trip location for security reasons. No exceptions, please!

If you must cancel for any reason, please call the nature center at the number below as there will be a waiting list of children who would like to go. The trip is free for Conservation Kids' Club members but each parent chaperone needs to include a **\$5.00 check payable to Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation** and mailed to the Runge Conservation Nature Center with the bottom portion of this form. (The \$5.00 parent/guardian chaperone fee is to assist with the transportation costs of the busses.) **The \$5 fee is non-refundable after August 1, 2005.**

We do have a limit of 100 passengers so register your child early! We'll call you if your form was not in the first 100.

Conservation Kids' Club Leader: Trana Madsen, Naturalist
Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 526-5544

Parents/Guardian-Return the bottom portion by 5:00PM on August 1, 2005.

I give my permission for the following child(ren):

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

to go with the Conservation Kids' Club to _____ being held on _____.

I understand transportation will be provided by Runge Conservation Nature Center and that the busses will leave the nature center promptly at _____ and return to the nature center at _____.

I understand that in case of an emergency a nature center staff person will contact _____ who can be reached at _____.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

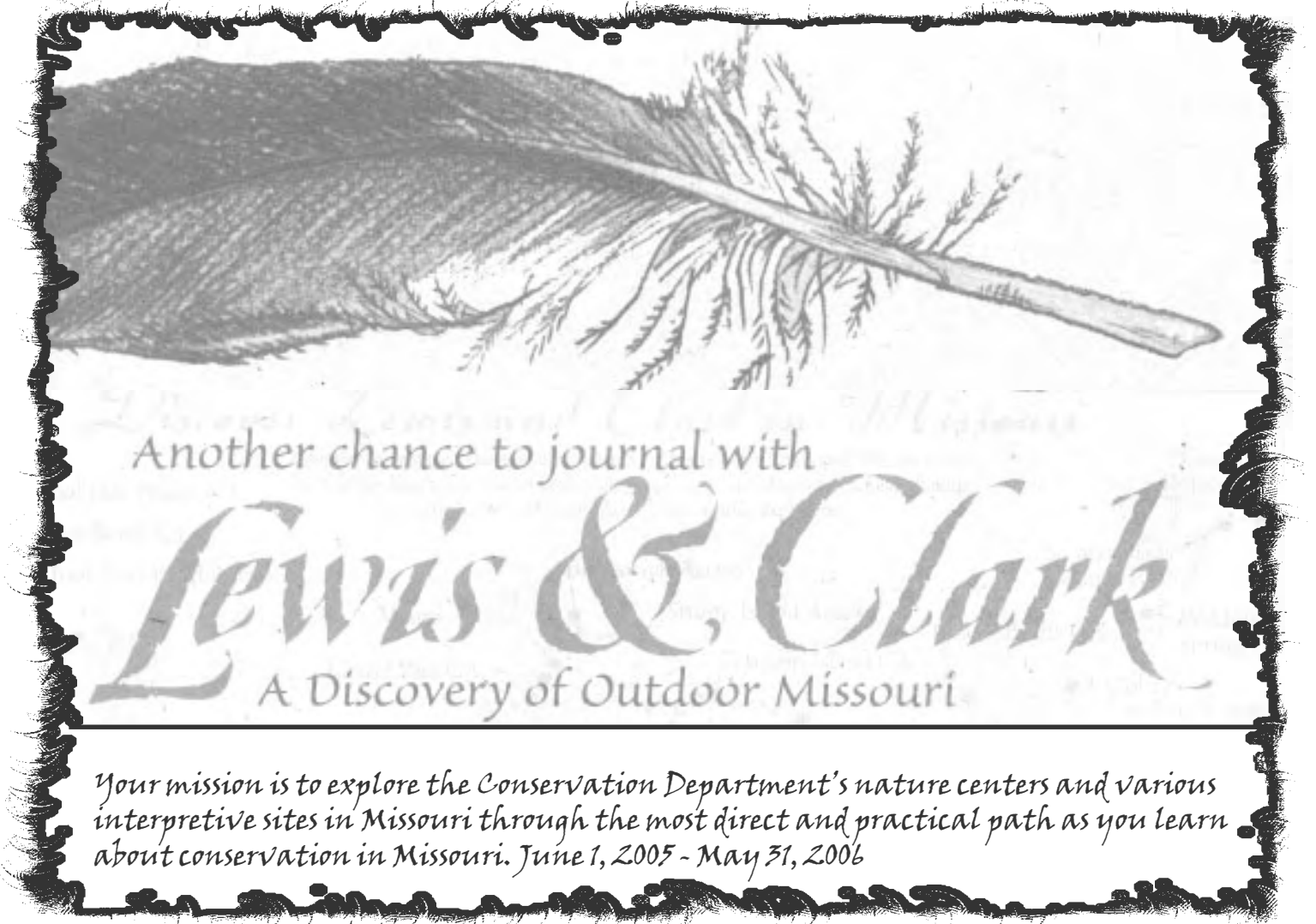
Phone number: (work) _____ (home) _____

Does your child have any special needs? (e.g. accessibility, diet, etc.) _____

☐ Please check if you plan to be a chaperone on this field trip and fill in your name(s) below. Address your check to **Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation** and return it to Runge Conservation Nature Center with this form.

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Office Use Only: Date Received _____ Paid _____ Call Status _____



Another chance to journal with

Lewis & Clark

A Discovery of Outdoor Missouri

Your mission is to explore the Conservation Department's nature centers and various interpretive sites in Missouri through the most direct and practical path as you learn about conservation in Missouri. June 1, 2005 - May 31, 2006



Habitat Happenings

Runge Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 64102

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

July Events at Runge

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on July 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

8 *Friday*

Basic Caving

Time: 7:00PM-8:00PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Explore the world under your feet! This indoor program will provide you with basic information about what makes a cave, how to safely explore the underworld of Missouri, and have a good time, too! Attending this program is a prerequisite for the Connor's Cave trips. Reservations required.

10 *Sunday*

Puppet Show: Critters Curious About Caves

Time: 1:00PM

Ages: All

It's summer in Missouri. Some critters seek cool places. Come watch curious animal puppets hunt in the hidden world for what they need. Snake searches for shade. Fish seeks cool water. Cricket looks for moist soil. Be one of the first to see this brand-new, fun performance by the Runge Puppeteers! No reservations required.

15 *Friday*

Connor's Cave Excursion

Time: 6:00PM-7:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Enjoy the cool air inside Connor's Cave as we explore a world beyond the light of day. Meet us at Devil's Icebox parking lot in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park which is located off of Highway 163 near Columbia. Bring sturdy shoes or boots and a flashlight. We will provide gloves and hardhats. This cave is a beginner level but you will be walking through water so plan on getting your feet wet. **Note:** Basic Caving is a prerequisite for this excursion. Reservations required.

16 *Saturday*

Cave Frenzy: Cave Room and Activities

Time: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Ages: All

Crawl inside our "cave" room to learn about the Missouri underworld. How did the cave get here? What are these strange-looking white "rocks?" Does anything live in caves? We will also have activities and crafts to help you explore the hidden world of caves. No reservations required.

16 *Saturday*

Cave Frenzy: Bat Program

Time: 4:00PM-5:00PM

Ages: All

Bats are one of Missouri's most misunderstood animals. What do bats eat? How do other animals depend on bats? How do bats help people? How can we help bats? Come learn about these interesting and beneficial mammals. No reservations required.

16 *Saturday*

Cave Frenzy: Bat Hike

Time: 8:00PM-9:00PM

Ages: All

Come with us on an evening hike as we talk about bats and look for them catching food in their natural habitat. We'll use our electronic bat detector to help us hear the bats' ultrasonic calls. Reservations required.

16 *Saturday*

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

Meramec State Park has more caves than any other park in the nation—forty-five to be exact. We'll start out with a 90-minute, Naturalist-led tour of **Fisher Cave**, the park's finest (.66 mile 🦎🦎🦎) After lunch, we'll hike to blufftop views of the Meramec River on the **Bluff View Trail** (1.5 miles 🦎🦎🦎). Natural features on the **Natural Wonders Trail** (1.3 miles 🦎🦎) include collapsed cave passageways, a glade, wet meadow, beaver pond, and 2 caves. Bring a jacket and \$3.00 for the cave tour. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

17 *Sunday*

Cave Frenzy: Cave Room and Activities

Time: 2:00PM-4:00PM

Ages: All

Crawl inside our "cave" room to learn about the Missouri underworld. How did the cave get here? What are these strange-looking white "rocks?" Does anything live in caves? We will also have activities and crafts to help you explore the hidden world of caves. No reservations required.

24 *Sunday*

Connor's Cave Excursion

Time: 1:00PM-2:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Enjoy the cool air inside Connor's Cave as we explore a world beyond the light of day. Meet us at Devil's Icebox parking lot in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park which is located off of Highway 163 near Columbia. Bring sturdy shoes or boots and a flashlight. We will provide gloves and hardhats. This cave is a beginner level but you will be walking through water so plan on getting your feet wet. **Note:** Basic Caving is a prerequisite for this excursion. Reservations required.

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Friday, July 8 – 10:00AM

Saturday, July 23 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, July 26 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Tuesday, July 5 – 11:00AM

Saturday, July 9 – 10:00AM

Thursday, July 21 – 10:00AM

Friday, July 29 – 1:00PM

Boisterous Bugs

What's all that noise? The sounds of summer are all around us. Bug sounds are as distinct as bird songs. Come and join our bug chorus this month. Reservations required.

Attention Scouts!

Runge Nature Center is happy to offer assistance in meeting requirements for some nature-related scout badges. We have a variety of scout packs available with activities and information to assist you in your efforts. Please call Alane at 573/522-4115 ext 3409 for more information or to reserve one of the following scout packs. Summer is a great time to get in some requirements, so call today!

Girl Scouts:

Brownie: Try-It - *Animals*

Brownie: Try-It - *Plants*

Boy Scouts:

Wolf Cub: Elective #13 - *Birds*

Bear Cub: Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*

Webelos: Naturalist & Forester Pack (s) - Your choice of packs or a combination pack that has both badge requirements.

Don't see the badge you're interested in? We'd appreciate any suggestions for other badges for which we can provide assistance!

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.



-Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)



-Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)



-Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots



-Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots



-Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks



We're hungry and we don't mind you watchin'!

Stop by the nature center on
July 6, 20, 27, and August 3 at 2:00pm
to watch the fish in the large aquarium and the snapping turtles being fed.

Habitat Happenings

August Events at Runge

To make a reservation, call **after 8:00AM on August 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend. Thank you.

2 *Tuesday*

Basic Caving

Time: 7:00PM-8:00PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Explore the world under your feet! This indoor program will provide you with basic information about what makes a cave, how to safely explore the underworld of Missouri, and have a good time, too! Attending this program is a prerequisite for the Connor's Cave trips. Reservations required.

5 *Friday*

Night Out at the Nature Center

Time: 7:00PM Friday-8:00AM Saturday, Aug. 6th

Ages: 8 years and older

Enjoy a sleep-over at Runge Nature Center! Tour our "cave" room, peer into the dark night while on a hike, spy on the nighttime critters that visit Runge Nature Center, take a special "behind the scenes" tour, and more. We'll learn a lot, have a lot of fun, and sleep a little, too! This event requires a signed Parental Permission form which will be sent to you when you make your reservation. One adult may accompany each child. Please, no scout groups. Reservations required.

9 *Tuesday*

Connor's Cave Excursion

Time: 6:00PM-7:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

Enjoy the cool air inside Connor's Cave as we explore a world beyond the light of day. Meet us at Devil's Icebox parking lot in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park which is located off of Highway 163 near Columbia. Bring sturdy shoes or boots and a flashlight. We will provide gloves and hardhats. This cave is a beginner level but you will be walking through water so plan on getting your feet wet. **Note:** Basic Caving is a prerequisite for this excursion. Reservations required.

11 *Thursday*

Connor's Cave Excursion

Time: 1:00PM-2:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

Enjoy the cool air inside Connor's Cave as we explore a world beyond the light of day. Meet us at Devil's Icebox parking lot in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park which is located off of Highway 163 near Columbia. Bring sturdy shoes or boots and a flashlight. We will provide gloves and hardhats. This cave is a beginner level but you will be walking through water so plan on getting your feet wet. **Note:** Basic Caving is a prerequisite for this excursion. Reservations required.

Adventure Packs are BACK!



Runge's Adventure Packs are available once again for check-out at the front desk. They have some new items to help you explore our trails. These packs are available for use everyday on a first-come, first-serve basis, so stop by today to try one out.

Habitat Happenings

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

Saturday, August 13 – 10:00AM

Friday, August 26 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, August 30 – 10:00AM

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Saturday, August 6 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, August 9 – 1:00PM

Friday, August 12 – 11:00AM

Flutterby Butterfly

From caterpillar to chrysalis and eventually to a full grown butterfly, the life of this insect is truly amazing. We will keep our eyes open to the wonders of the butterfly this month. Reservations required.






20 *Saturday*

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

One of the nation's most spectacular caves, Onondaga is known for the abundance and quality of its speleothems (calcite deposits.) Come with us on a Naturalist-led tour of Onondaga Cave (1 mile ) at **Onondaga Cave State Park**. After lunch, we'll hike the **Blue Heron Trail** (1 mile ) on the way to the **Deer Run Trail** (2.5 miles ) where we'll hike to glades, ancient cedar trees, and panoramic overlooks of forested hills and the winding Meramec River. Bring your lunch, water, \$5.00 per person and a jacket for the cave tour, and hiking boots or comfortable shoes. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

22 *Monday*

Hunter Education Course

Time: 6:00-9:00PM

Ages: 11 years and older

Learn how to hunt safely and responsibly. Course continues on **Tuesday, August 23rd, 6:00-9:00PM**, and concludes on **Thursday, August 25th, 6:00-10:00PM**. Reservations required. **(Start taking reservations on Friday, July 1.)**

27 *Saturday*

Puppet Show: Critters Curious About Caves

Time: 10:00AM

Ages: All

It's summer in Missouri. Some critters seek cool places. Come watch curious animal puppets hunt in the hidden world for what they need. Snake searches for shade. Fish seeks cool water. Cricket looks for moist soil. Be one of the first to see this brand-new, fun performance by the Runge Puppeteers! No reservations required.



Where to Learn About CAVES

Most government-operated show caves are closed part of the year to accommodate the bat population. Many show caves offer special group rates, especially for schools. All tours and schedules listed below are subject to change.

Round Spring Cavern, on Highway 19 between Salem and Eminence, is operated by the National Park Service's Ozark National Scenic Riverways.

Schedule: Open Memorial Day - Labor Day
Phone: 573/858-3297

Onondaga Cave, in Onondaga Cave State Park, Route H near Leasburg, is rich in speleothems and biodiversity.

Schedule: Open March 1 - October 31.
Phone: 573/245-6600

Fantastic Caverns, just north of Springfield on North Farm Road 125, is privately owned and offers a 55-minute, ride-through tour in a tram with emphasis on cave, karst, and groundwater conservation.

Schedule: Open daily, except for major holidays.
Phone: 417/833-2010

Fisher Cave, in Meramec State Park on Highway 185 near Sullivan, is a large cave with unusual stalactiflats and cave life.

Schedule: Open daily June through August; and Thursday through Monday in April, May, September, and October.
Phone: 573/468-6072

Ozark Caverns, a medium-sized cave, is in Lake of the Ozarks State Park on State Road A near Linn Creek.

Schedule: Call for information.
Phone: 573/346-2500

Devil's Icebox is a large, stream cave in Rock Bridge Memorial State Park near Columbia. Guided tours provide views of hydrology, geology, and biology. Cavers must be at least 14 years old and in good physical condition. Schedule: Tours offered from September through November and February through March. Phone: 573/449-7402

Missouri has about 20 other commercial show caves that provide tours to the public. www.cavern.com

Hunter Education Courses

Do you need to take the hunter education course and don't know where to look? To locate a course near you visit our website at www.missouriconservation.org. From here select *Hunting & Trapping* then *Hunter Ed. Courses* and enter the county where you would like to take the course.